

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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CINCUSAREUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1332

E.O. 11652: GDS: 12-31-80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: BASIC ISSUES OF DEFENSE PLANNING: DEFENSE AGAINST ARMOR

REFS: A. AC/243-D/291 RESEARCH STUDY GROUP, ANTI-ARMOR

B. USNATO 1003

C. USNATO 1163

D. STATE 047749

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE RECOMMENDS CEVUKS.#REPRESENTATIVES
MEET WITH FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY REPRESENTATIVES IN BONN
ON SUBJECT OF DEFENSE AGAINST AMOR DURING THE WEEK OF 18 MARCH.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON FRG ANTI-TANK WEAPONS ALSO INCLUDED.
END SUMMARY.

1. ALLIED COUNTRIES, FOR THE MOST PART, HAVE NOT YET BEGUN TO
APPLY NATO DEFENSE RESEARCH GROUP (DRG) RECOMMENDATIONS ON
MODERN ANTI-AMOR WEAPONS (REF. A) TO THEIR FORCE PLANS.
EWG MEMBERS WILL LISTEN TO U.S. PRESENTATION ON ANTI-ARMOR,
BUT THERE IS NOT LIKELY TO BE ANY "FLEXIBLE AND MEANINGFUL
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DIALOGUE" ALONG LINES OF REF. D. MOST MEMBERS HAVE INDICATED
THAT THEIR CAPITALS ARE NOT YET READY TO DISCUSS SUBJECT.

2. THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (FRG) IS THE ONLY COUNTRY

WHICH HAS COMPLETED ITS INITIAL ANALYSIS AND IS READY TO DISCUSS ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONS (REF. B AND C) WILL RESULT IN CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION AMONG SMALLER COUNTRIES UNLESS US AND FRG MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THEIR PLANS WILL ACTUALLY RESULT IN CONSISTENTLY GOOD DEFENSE AGAINST ARMOR IN THE US AND FRG SECTORS OF THE CENTRAL REGION OF NATO. IF US BRIEFING FOR EWG PRECEDES US MEETING WITH GERMANS, BURDEN OF RECONCILING THE TWO POSITIONS WILL FALL ON THE GERMANS, AND THE RESULTS ARE LIKELY TO BE LESS THAN THE US WOULD DESIRE WITH RESPECT TO INFLUENCING OTHER ALLIES TO MAKE EARLY PROVISION FOR MODERN ANTITANK WEAPONS.

3. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT DR. WILBUR PAYNE, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE ON DRG STUDY (REF. A), AS WELL AS OTHER APPROPRIATE US ANTI-TANK SPECIALISTS (SUCH AS BRIG. GEM. WILLIAM RICHARDSON FROM THE INFANTRY CENTER) MEET WITH FRG REPRESENTATIVES WEEK OF 18 MARCH. FRG PREFERS TO HOST MEETING IN BONN.

4. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM BONN MARCH 8 REVEALS THE FRG INFANTRY BATTALION CONTAINS AN ANTI-TANK CAPABILITY NOT PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED. INFANTRY BATTALION BASIS OF ISSUE IS ONE (1) MILAN AND TWO (2) 1000-METER WEAPONS (SUCH AS DRAGON) PER PLATOON. THEREFORE, NUMBERS RELATIVE TO FRG IN PARA 1, REF C, SHOULD BE CHANGED TO SHOW TOW (3000-METER) -9 (NO CHANGE); MILAN (2000-METER) -27 (INCREASE FROM 18); AND DRAGON (1000-METER) -54 (INCREASE FROM 36).
MCAULIFFE

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED ON REQUEST.

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